



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
**DIOCESE OF TUCSON**

❖ BISHOP MORENO PASTORAL CENTER ❖  
111 SOUTH CHURCH AVENUE

P.O. Box 31 ♦ Tucson, Arizona 85702-0031  
520-838-2500 ♦ Fax: 520-838-2590 ♦ [www.diocesetucson.org](http://www.diocesetucson.org)

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 16, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Giffords,

I am writing to support an important project in the city of Tucson. The Besserman Manor Apartments are an integral part of Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging, which is the only non-profit organization providing continuum of care services to senior citizens in Tucson.

Handmaker has assisted thousands of senior citizens of all faiths and backgrounds for 47 years. The 14 Besserman apartments, located on the Handmaker campus, were built in the 1960's and are in need of substantial renovation which Handmaker cannot accomplish given its operating revenues and expenses incurred to provide superior levels of care. Therefore, this funding is critical to the renovation and continued occupancy of these apartments. The renovation would enable the introduction of energy efficient technologies that could serve as a model for similar facilities. Without these apartments, Handmaker would be challenged to offer the range of services currently provided.

The apartments benefit the entire Handmaker operation and philosophy. They enable residents to be at the same location as a loved one who is in declining health.

Handmaker is a well known and respected institution whose direct services and organizational health are important to the entire community. The project will be a compelling demonstration of the promise of solar energy.

The modernization of the Besserman Manor apartments will help Handmaker to assist senior citizens for generations to come.

I hope you would consider supporting this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D.  
Bishop of Tucson